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Note verbale dated 5 July 2018 from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and refers to its note verbale No. 4470 of 29 June 2017 addressed to the Secretary-General, as well as previous relevant notes verbales. In those documents, the Government of Saudi Arabia protested in the strongest terms against the repeated incursions and violations perpetrated by Iranian ships and boats into the protected zones of oil fields and platforms located in the territorial waters of Saudi Arabia in the Arabian Gulf, as defined by the agreement concerning the Arabian Gulf that was concluded between the two countries on 24 October 1968, and demanded that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran desist from such actions.

Despite letters of protest addressed to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Secretary-General, there has been an escalation in the incursions and violations perpetrated by Iranian ships and boats in the waters of Saudi Arabia in the protected zones of oil fields whose coordinates are set out in global nautical charts. Those zones are located in the territorial waters of Saudi Arabia and its exclusive economic zone in the Arabian Gulf.

In view of the repeated incursions and violations committed by Iranian ships and boats, including those of 17 November 2016, 16 June 2017, 27 October 2017 and 21 December 2017, the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia have taken the necessary measures in respect of the incursions and violations, in accordance with the regulations in force in Saudi Arabia.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran bears full responsibility for any harm that may occur as a result of the incursions and violations.

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia would be grateful if the Secretary-General could have the present note verbale circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 78(a) of the provisional agenda, and published in the next issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

* A/73/150.

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